

The Cost of Sepsis

Sepsis is the most expensive medical condition in the U.S. healthcare system. Hospitals need to diagnose and treat sepsis early — otherwise lives are lost and costs are staggering:

The Cost in

Lives

- More than **1.5** million people get sepsis each year in the U.S. (CDC)
- Sepsis kills at least **250,000** Americans each year (CDC)
- Sepsis contributes to as many as **half of all hospital deaths** in the U.S. (JAMA)
- For every one hour of delay in treating sepsis, the patient's risk of death increases by **8%** (NIH)
- **44%** of patients diagnosed with severe sepsis do not survive (NIH)

The Cost of

Care

- Sepsis is the most expensive condition treated in U.S. hospitals, costing nearly **\$24** billion in 2013 (NIH)
- Sepsis is responsible for **6.2%** of all hospital costs across the country (HCUP)
- Sepsis cost Medicare more than **\$7** billion¹ in 2015, more than any other condition or procedure (CMS)

¹ \$6 billion without ventilation, \$1 billion with ventilation

The Cost in

Readmissions

- Sepsis was involved in **12.2%** of unplanned readmissions in 2013, dwarfing the "Big Four"² conditions monitored by CMS (JAMA)
- Sepsis-associated readmissions were also the longest and most expensive, with a mean length of stay of **7.4** days — also higher than the Big Four (JAMA)
- Penalties assessed on hospitals for readmissions will increase by ~25% to **\$528** million in 2017 (HRRP)
- **While sepsis is not one of the readmission conditions monitored by CMS, it could be soon!**

² "Big Four" readmission rates: heart failure (6.7%), pneumonia (5.0%), COPD (4.8%), AMI (1.3%)

The Cost in

Reimbursements

- Sepsis is now an Inpatient Quality Reporting requirement. If your sepsis measures compliance is unsatisfactory, your Medicare **reimbursements could go down**
- **65.6%** of abstractions from 2015 did not pass SEP-1 requirements (CMS, November 16, 2016)
- Many moving parts (actions, stages, timeframes), and **100%** compliance is required — it's PASS or FAIL!

The Cost in

Hospital Reputation

- Sepsis management performance is not part of Hospital Compare data — **YET!**
- Misdiagnosis and delayed treatment cost **millions** in settlements
- Sepsis complications are in the news now and patients and family members are **paying close attention**

To save lives and reduce astronomical costs, early detection and treatment of sepsis are critical.

Learn how. [Read about Sepsis Management.](#)